



Walker River Paiute Tribe

Walker River Indian Reservation

P.O. Box 220 • Schurz, Nevada 89427

Phone: (702) 773-2306

Admiral James D. Watkins
Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Admiral Watkins:

As you know, the 1987 Amendments Act to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act required the Department of Energy to study Yucca Mountain in southern Nevada as the only potential repository for storage of spent reactor fuel and high-level defense waste. If Yucca Mountain is found suitable and is subsequently approved as the nations only geologic repository, then all of the spent nuclear fuel and high-level defense waste would be transported across Nevada.

Please be advised that the Walker River Paiute Tribe will not allow nuclear waste to be transported across any portion of the Walker River Indian Reservation. Our reservation is located in west central Nevada near Walker Lake and is home to more than 800 Native Americans.

There may have been some confusion on the part of the DOE about our position concerning the transportation of high level toxic wastes across our sovereign lands. We now endure transportation of munitions across the reservation. The munitions go through our school yard on their way to one of the world's largest ammunition arsenals. Our air space has been invaded by constant missiles and aircraft across our reservation resulting in "accidental" bombing of our reservation land. We are in negotiation concerning these unacceptable intrusions. Native Americans consider their land sacred, I only wish the Federal Government shared this belief.

Let there be no mistake about the Tribe's position on this matter Mr. Secretary — we will not permit nuclear waste to be transported via railway or highway, on our sovereign lands.

Sincerely,

Anita Collins

Anita Collins, Chairman
Walker River Paiute Tribe

cc: Governor Bob Miller
Nevada Congressional Delegation
John Bartlett, DOE
Carl Gertz, DOE
Frankie Sue Del Papa, Nevada Attorney General
Brian Harris, Legal Counsel to the Governor

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